

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF HULL MAYOR AND COUNCIL

January 28, 2021

HELD VIA ZOOM DUE TO COVID 19

Following the Zoning Hearings the meeting was called to order by Mayor Paul Walton. Those in attendance in addition to the Mayor were the Clerk, and council members Brian Koepnick, John Barber, and, Marilyn Walton. Due to the current State of Emergency due to Covid 19 the meeting was held via Zoom. In addition Ms. Donna Sherrer-Gantt joined the meeting as a guest along with Attorney Freddrell Green; CPA Keith Terrell; and local developer, Jay Pridgen

A moment of silent prayer followed the pledge of allegiance.

The minutes from the December meeting and the Budget meeting having been provided to Mayor and Council prior to the meeting were approved after a motion by Brian Koepnick and a second by John Barber.

The Clerk then read the financial reports all of which were approved after a motion by Brian Koepnick and a second by Marilyn Walton.

Under old business council member Walton and the Clerk advised on the status of the \$750.00 credit from Universal Concepts with respect to the Christmas Decorations. The Clerk advised that she had spoken with the company and they had not received the \$750.00 check which was mailed to them by the Clerk. The Clerk is checking with the bank and if necessary will stop payment on that check so that the \$24.00 balance owed can be paid.

The Clerk reported that there had been two people to qualify for the March 16th Special Election - Rita Parham who is the store manager at the new Chevron and Ms. Donna Sherrer-Gantt. Per a previous agreement with the County Elections office between all the cities in the county the Early and Advance Voting and the election itself will be conducted by that office.

Mayor Walton advised council that he had been able to obtain the Neighborhood Watch signs placed throughout the community but primarily in Hidden Falls Subdivision and Ms. Sherrer-Gantt advised that she had received positive feedback from the residents of Hidden Falls.

Under new business Mayor Walton spoke to the public hearings held prior to the council meeting on the Zoning Ordinances. He advised that he had spoken with Jim Baird who is the county building inspector and also provides inspections for building projects within the City and he indicated that he would be willing to serve as the Zoning Administrator for Hull. Mayor Walton will have further information on this going forward.

Mayor Walton advised that he was waiting on the last of the paperwork with respect to the Landscaping Grant Project on Highway 72 to be submitted and approved. He advised that there had been a glitch in GDOT getting some of the final paperwork to him but he still anticipates that everything will be approved and in place for us to proceed with the project in early March.

Mayor Walton then provided some information from the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia with respect to the City holding a food drive. Based on the information he had received the City could spend \$350.00 and feed over 200 families through this project. Mayor Walton also advised that he had observed one of the food drives held in the City of Watkinsville and had been very impressed with how it worked and how many families were helped. He also advised that he had spoken with Hull Baptist Church and they would be willing to help store the food if we had more

than we were able to give away. Further, he advised that the food bank would come with a box truck full of food and volunteers would be used to help distribute. Council member Koepnick expressed some concern about making sure that we don't create a traffic jam that would impede the fire department from responding to an emergency. After some discussion about advertising logistics, etc. a motion was made by Brian Koepnick and seconded by Marilyn Walton that we spend up to \$350.00 to participate in this project. Motion passed.

The following appointments were made for the 2021 year:

Voter Registrar - Tracy Dean - Motion by Brian Koepnick and second by John Barber to approve this appointment. Motion passed.

City Attorney - Freddrell Green/The Green Law Firm - Motion by Marilyn Walton seconded by Brian Koepnick to approve this appointment. Motion passed.

Auditor - Keith Terrell of the Wesley Peachtree Group - Motion by Marilyn Walton, seconded by John Barber to approve this appointment. Motion passed.

Attorney Green spoke to the matter of the former auditor - Hawkins and McNair - that he had been speaking with them and they had cooperated in returning the documents previously provided to them with regards to the 2019 audit and that he had been able to have a positive dialogue with them concerning the \$2,000.00 deposit paid to them. He had provided a draft of a letter he plans to send to them to Mayor Walton for approval which will be time sensitive.

Mr. Terrell gave an update on his work on the 2019 audit. He advised that the Clerk had been very helpful in getting him everything he had requested from her and he was comfortable with reporting that the revenue and expenses were in line. There is some information he is still missing that he needs from the former auditor to be able to complete the audit and the feasibility study needed with respect to the financing of the new City Hall. Without the needed information it might not be possible to meet the January 31st deadline. Mayor Walton will check with Ms. Newburg to see if another extension might be possible and will work with Mr. Terrell on this. Mayor Walton did request that the report due to the Department of Community Affairs be submitted even with unaudited figures which could be amended later if necessary. He will work together with Mr. Terrell to complete all of these matter as expeditiously as possible.

Mayor Walton then present a recommendation to appoint City Clerk, Sandra Pou, to serve Mayor and Council for 2021. Motion was made by Brian Koepnick and seconded by John Barber to approve this recommendation. Motion passed.

Mayor Walton then recommended that council member Marilyn Walton be appointed to serve as Mayor Pro Tem. He expressed his thanks to Brian Koepnick for all of his years of service as Mayor Pro Tem and for all that he had learned from him. Motion was made by Brian Koepnick and seconded by John Barber to accept the recommendation to appoint Marilyn Walton as Mayor Pro Tem. Motion passed and the Clerk administered the oath as required.

There was no other business to come before Mayor and Council at this time and the meeting was adjourned after a motion by Brian Koepnick and a second by John Barber.

Sandra Pou
Hull City Clerk